

HAMPTON COURTS TENANTS ASSOC. v. D.C. RENTAL HOUSING COMMISSION, 599 A.2nd 1113 (1991)

Court: D.C. Court of Appeals, opinion by Steadman, A.J.

Judicial History: Prevailing tenants' association in dispute under Rental Housing Act sought attorney's fees. The Rental Housing Commission (RHC) denied fees. Tenants' association appealed. The Court of Appeals, 573 A.2nd 10, reversed and remanded. On remand, the RHC awarded attorney's fees but reduced requested amount of \$20,968 to \$5,125. Association then brought this appeal.

Facts: This case involved the determination of the amount of attorney's fees to be awarded to the prevailing tenants' association in a dispute under the Rental Housing Act. The RHC cut back the \$20,968.75 sought by the tenants' counsel to \$5,125.00, by reducing both the claimed hourly rate and the number of claimed compensable hours.

Holding: The Court of Appeals held that RHC did not abuse its discretion in finding that association failed to carry its burden of persuasion in justifying its request for fees and in setting its ultimate fee award in amount markedly less than that sought by association.

Reasoning: Rental Housing Commission could require tenants' association to provide more documentation in support of attorney fee request than itemization of hours claimed specifying dates work was performed, general nature of services, and total time spent, even if itemization was of type traditionally used in legal profession.

Decision: Affirmed.